

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055025

TOSEC 346

FOLLOWING REPEAT MADRID 1676 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LISBON
DATED 11 MARCH 1975:

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1676

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP (STABLER, WELLS), SP, PO

SUBJECT: CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA

1. ACCOMPANIED BY DCM I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER
CORTINA THIS AFTERNOON TO PRESENT COPIES OF MY
CREDENTIALS AND LETTER OF RECALL OF MY PREDECESSOR.

2. CORTINA RECEIVED ME VERY CORDIALLY, REFERRING TO
OUR PREVIOUS MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, AND SAID HE WOULD
ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE WHEN I NEEDED TO SEE HIM. HE
EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE MIGHT EXCHANGE INFORMATION
ON A MORE OR LESS REGUALR BASIS. I REPLIED IN KIND.

3. CORTINA ASKED ME WHAT LATE INFORMATION I MIGHT
HAVE ON PORTUGUESE SITUATION. I GAVE HIM A RUN-DOWN
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BASED ON EARLIER REPORTS FROM LISBON. CORTINA SAID

IT WAS CLEAR "ATTEMPTED COUP BY RIGHT AND MODERATE FORCES" HAD FAILED AND HE PREDICTED VIOLENT REACTIONS FROM THE LEFT. HE TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT FOUR PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS HAD LANDED AT TALAVERA DE LA REINA, SPANISH TOWN NEAR FRONTIER, WITH UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF PORTUGUESE MILITARY WHO HAD FLED ON FAILURE OF COUP ATTEMPT. THESE HELICOPTERS WOULD PRESENT SPANISH GOVT WITH DIFFICULT PROBLEM SINCE GOP WOULD ASK FOR RETURN OF AIRCRAFT AND MEN. GOS WANTED TO REMAIN UNINVOLVED IN PORTUGAL.

4. IN DISCUSSING GENERAL MEDITERRANEAN PICTURE CORTINA SAID AREA HAD BECOME A VERY ACTIVE ONE WITH DANGEROUS POSSIBILITIES. I SAID THIS WAS ADDED REASON WHY SIXTH FLEET SHOULD REMAIN IN AREA AND HAVE FULL FACILITIES TO ACCOMPLISH ITS TASKS. DETENTE DID NOT MEAN WEST COULD LOWER ITS GUARD IN ANY WAY. CORTINA SAID HE FULLY AGREED, SINCE IT WAS EVIDENT THAT WITHOUT US PRESENCE IN MEDITERRANEAN THERE WOULD BE NO ADEQUATE COUNTERBALANCE TO SOVIET MEDIUM RANGE CAPABILITIES TARGETTED ON WESTERN EUROPE.

5. CORTINA MADE NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO BASE NEGOTIATIONS NOW GOING ON IN WASHINGTON. STABLER UNQTE INGERSOLL

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